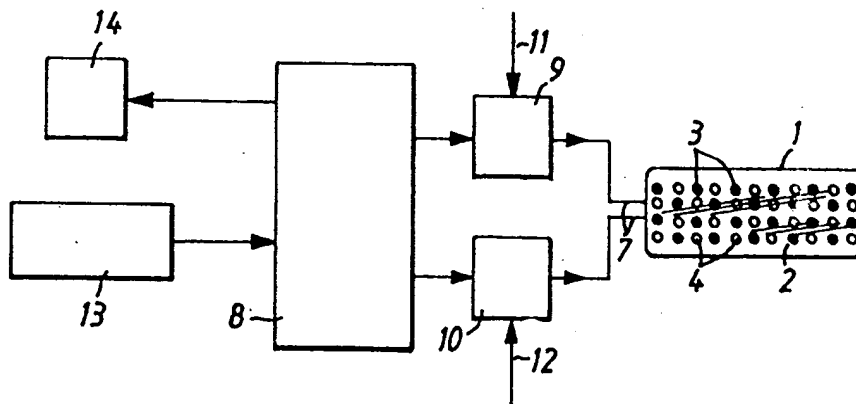




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(54) Title: DEVICE FOR MEDICAL EXTERNAL TREATMENT BY MEANS OF LIGHT



(57) Abstract

A device for the external medical treatment with the aid of light, including a light emitting element which is intended to lie against or be held close to a wound or sore on the body of an individual, and drive means for driving the light emitting element, wherein the light emitting element includes light emitting diodes or like devices and is constructed to emit infrared light. The invention is characterized in that the drive means (8, 9, 10) is constructed to cause the light emitting element (1) to emit infrared light in a first stage for a first predetermined length of time and thereafter to emit visible light in a second stage for a second predetermined length of time; in that the drive means (8, 9, 10) is constructed to cause the light emitting element (1) to pulsate the emitted infrared light and the emitted visible light respectively in accordance with a predetermined series of pulse frequencies over said time periods; and in that the drive means is constructed to emit two or more series having successively rising frequencies F_1 , F_2 , F_n , where F_1 is a fundamental frequency and where F_2 , F_n are multiples of the fundamental frequency.

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Device for medical external treatment by means of light

The present invention relates to a device for the external medicinal treatment with the aid of light, more specifically with light which will alleviate and/or cure different sickness conditions.

It has been observed that infrared light has a beneficial effect.

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Swedish Patent Specification ... (patent application no 9400153-4) describes a device for healing wounds and sores with the aid of light. The device includes a light emitting element which is intended to lie against or to be held close to a wound, or sore, on the body of an individual, and means for powering the light emitting element, wherein the light emitting element includes light emitting diodes or like devices and is constructed to emit infrared light. The invention according to this patent is characterized in that the power means is adapted to cause the light emitting element to emit infrared light in a first stage for a first predetermined length of time, and then to emit visible red light in a second stage for a second predetermined length of time, and in that the power means is constructed to cause the light emitting element to pulsate the emitted infrared light and the red light respectively in accordance with a predetermined series of pulse frequencies during said time periods.

It has thus been observed that infrared light shall be combined with the emission of a red light, by emitting the different lights sequentially, one after the other. It has also been observed that the different lights shall be emitted in pulse form having certain pulse repetition frequencies.

35

It has now been found that a device of this kind can be used very successfully for treating other sicknesses, illnesses

CORRECTED

and injuries, such as injuries resulting from sporting activities, stretched muscles, myalgia, joint pains or arthralgia, headaches, different inflammatory conditions, different skin complaints, such as acne, back pains, etc.,
5 provided that the lights are emitted, or transmitted, in a given manner. In this regard, the light treatment has a favorable effect on the healing process of injuries, and will also ease and/or cure different sicknesses, illnesses.

10 The present invention is based on the understanding that light treatment effected by emitting a given light in a given frequency series will provide a significantly improved effect, by shortening the time taken to cure or ease an illness or sickness.

15 The present invention thus relates to a device for the external medical treatment with the aid of light, this device including a light emitting element which is intended to lie against or be held close to a wound or sore on the body of
20 an individual, and a means for powering the light emitting element, wherein the light emitting element includes light emitting diodes or the like and is intended to emit infrared light, said device being characterized in that the power means is constructed to cause the light emitting element to
25 emit infrared light in a first stage for a first predetermined length of time, and thereafter to cause the light emitting element to emit visible light in a second stage for a second predetermined length of time; in that the power means is constructed to cause the light emitting
30 element to pulsate the emitted infrared light and the visible light respectively in accordance with a predetermined series of pulse frequencies over said predetermined time periods; and in that the power means is constructed to emit two or more series of successively rising frequencies F_1 , F_2 , F_n ,
35 where F_1 is a fundamental frequency and where F_2 , F_n are multiples of the fundamental frequency.

The invention will now be described in more detail, partly with reference to an exemplifying embodiment of the invention illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which
Figure 1 is a block schematic illustrating the device, and
5 Figure 2 is a side view of a light emitting element.

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate a device for healing wounds and sores with the aid of light, said device including a light emitting element 1 which is intended to be placed against or
10 held close to the body of an individual. The light emitting element is shown from one side in Figure 2 and from beneath in Figure 1. This element includes a housing 5 which is provided with a transparent plate 6. Beneath the plate 6 there is located a surface 2 in which a number of light
15 emitting diodes 3, 4 or corresponding devices are mounted. Thus, the light emitting diodes are intended to transmit light through the plate 6 when activated, i.e. when supplied with current through a cable 7. In use, the housing 5 is held so that the plate 6 will lie against the part of the body to
20 be treated. The device also includes drive means 8, 9, 10 for driving the light emitting element 1. The light emitting element 1 includes light emitting diodes 3 or like devices which are constructed to emit infrared light. These diodes are marked with solid circles in Figure 1.

25 The drive means 8, 9, 10 are constructed to cause the light emitting element 1 to emit infrared light in a first stage for a first predetermined length of time, and then to emit visible light in a second stage for a second predetermined
30 length of time. Visible light is emitted by means of light emitting diodes 4 or like devices. These devices are marked with hollow circles in Figure 1. It is extremely important that the treatment is carried out in the order infrared light followed by visible light.

35 According to the present invention, the drive means 8, 9, 10 are also constructed to cause the light emitting element 1

to pulsate the emitted infrared light and the visible light respectively in accordance with a predetermined series of pulse frequencies over the aforesaid predetermined time periods.

5

According to the present invention, the drive means are also constructed to transmit two or more series of successively rising frequencies F_1 , F_2 , F_n , where F_1 is a fundamental frequency and where F_2 , F_n are multiples of the fundamental frequency.

10

According to a much preferred embodiment, the fundamental frequency is 7.8 Hz.

15

According to another highly preferred embodiment, the fundamental frequency is 8.6 Hz.

20

The drive means include a computer 8 and associated memory, and drive circuits 9, 10 which are controlled by the computer. These drive circuits 9, 10 are supplied with voltage for powering the light emitting diodes, through conductors 11, 12. One drive circuit, 9, is intended to activate the infrared light emitting diodes 3 and the other drive circuit 10, is intended to activate the light emitting diodes 4 that emit visible light. The computer and the drive circuits are of a suitable known kind.

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The infrared light emitting diodes 3 are preferably GaAs-type semi-conductors (Galliumarsenide) which emit light having a wavelength of 950 nanometers. The light emitting diodes 4 which emit visible light are preferably of the GaAs-type which emit visible light.

35

According to one preferred embodiment of the invention, the light emitting diodes are present in the light emitting element in such numbers that the infrared light emitting diodes together deliver a light power of 1800 milliwatts,

while the visible light emitting diodes together have a power of 3000 millicandela.

5 Mention is made in the foregoing of predetermined lengths of times over which light is emitted at a treatment. According to one preferred embodiment, these predetermined time periods are approximately of equal duration. Furthermore, the predetermined time period lies in a range of 2-4 minutes, preferably 3 minutes.

10 Mention is made in the foregoing of a series of pulse frequencies. According to one preferred embodiment, each series is comprised of three mutually sequential pulse frequencies F1, F2 and F3, by means of which respective light
15 is emitted.

20 In summary, this means that there is first emitted solely infrared light, said light being emitted so as to be pulsed in a manner such that there is first emitted light which is pulsed at a given pulse frequency, whereafter the light is emitted while pulsed at a second pulse frequency, and then at a third pulse frequency. Thereafter there is emitted only visible light, this light being pulsed at a first pulse frequency and then at a second pulse frequency and thereafter
25 at a third pulse frequency.

30 Provided that the predetermined time period is three minutes, infrared light is emitted over a period of three minutes, and is then followed by visible light over a period of three minutes. Preferably, the duration of each pulse frequency in the series is one minute.

35 According to one highly preferred embodiment, the light emitting element 1 includes red light emitting diodes 4 which emit visible light at the wavelength of 660 nanometers.

According to another preferred embodiment, the light emitting

element 1 includes light emitting diodes 4 which are constructed to emit an essentially monochromatic visible light in one of the colors blue, yellow, orange or green.

- 5 The visible light that is used will depend on the sickness, illness or the nature of the injury to be treated.

According to another preferred embodiment of the invention, the first series of pulse frequencies is 78 +/- 10 Hz, 702
10 +/- 20 Hz and 8.58 KHz +/- 100 Hz. This means that there is first pulsed the infrared light at a pulse frequency of 78 Hz, followed by a pulse frequency of 702 Hz and then a pulse frequency of 8.58 KHz, whereafter visible red light is emitted in accordance with the same series.

15 A typical treatment process is effected by turning the light emitting element to face the injured part of the body or that part which is relevant to the illness in question, and infrared light is emitted in accordance with the aforesaid
20 series for a total period of three minutes, whereafter visible light is also emitted in accordance with said series for a total period of three minutes. Treatment thus takes six minutes. The treatment is repeated from two to three times each week. Typically, the effect of the treatment will be
25 seen after 4-6 treatments.

According to one preferred embodiment, the infrared light and the red light respectively are emitted in accordance with another pulse frequency series after from 4 to 6 treatments
30 using the aforementioned series. According to this embodiment, the drive means 8, 9, 10 is intended to cause the light emitting element 1 to emit a second series of pulse frequencies, this second pulse frequency series being, for instance, 15.6 +/- 3 Hz, 289 +/- 20 Hz and 31.2 +/- 5 Hz.
35 Each type of light is preferably emitted for a total period of three minutes also with this second pulse frequency series.

In the foregoing, pulse frequency series have been mentioned in which the pulse frequency is given a relatively narrow interval. It is namely important that the pulse frequency is the nominal frequency or very close thereto. However, the
5 aforesaid predetermined time periods can be varied slightly.

Connected to the computer 8 is a keyboard 13 by means of which relevant series and the duration of said series can be chosen by depressing the appropriate keys. There will
10 preferably be found a number of different preprogrammed treatment programs to choose from. To the computer 8 there is also connected to a display 14 which presents desired data, such as the treatment program chosen, the time duration of the series, etc..

15 It will be understood that the construction of the light emitting element can be changed, and that the number and the power of the light emitting diodes can also be changed. The control circuit that includes the computer can also be
20 modified.

The present invention cannot therefore be considered restricted to the aforescribed exemplifying embodiments, since the variations and modifications can be made within the
25 scope of the following claims.

Claims

1. A device for the external medical treatment of a patient with the aid of light, including a light emitting element which is intended to lie against or be held close to a wound or sore on the body of an individual, and drive means for driving the light emitting element, wherein the light emitting element includes light emitting diodes or like devices and is constructed to emit infrared light, **characterized in that** the drive means (8, 9, 19) is constructed to cause the light emitting element (1) to emit infrared light in a first stage for a first predetermined length of time and thereafter to emit visible light in a second stage for a second predetermined length of time; in that the drive means (8, 9, 10) is constructed to cause the light emitting element (1) to pulsate the emitted infrared light and the emitted visible light respectively in accordance with a predetermined series of pulse frequencies over said time periods; and in that the drive means is constructed to emit two or more series having successively rising frequencies F_1 , F_2 , F_n , where F_1 is a fundamental frequency and where F_2 , F_n are multiples of the fundamental frequency.
2. An arrangement according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the fundamental frequency is 7.8 Hz.
3. An arrangement according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the fundamental frequency is 8.6 Hz.
4. An arrangement according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, **characterized in that** the predetermined time periods are approximately of mutually equal duration; and in that the time period lies in a range of 2-4 minutes, preferably 3 minutes.
5. An arrangement according to Claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, **characterized in that** each of said series is comprised of three mutually sequential pulse frequencies at which a respective

light is emitted.

6. An arrangement according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized in** that a first series of pulse
5 frequencies is 78 +/- 10 Hz, 702 +/- 20 Hz and 8.58 KHz
+/- 100 Hz.

7. An arrangement according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized in** that the light emitting element (1)
10 includes infrared light emitting diodes (3) which emit light having a wavelength of 950 nanometers.

8. An arrangement according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized in** that the light emitting element (1)
15 includes red light emitting diodes (4) which emit light having a wavelength of 660 nanometers.

9. An arrangement according to Claim 7 or Claim 8, **characterized in** that the infrared light emitting diodes (3)
20 together produce a light power of 1800 milliwatts and the red light emitting diodes (4) together produce a power of 3000 millicandela.

10. An arrangement according to any one of Claims 1-7, **characterized in** that the light emitting element (1) includes
25 light emitting diodes (4) which are constructed to emit an essentially monochromatic visible light in one of the colors blue, yellow, orange or green.

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Fig. 1

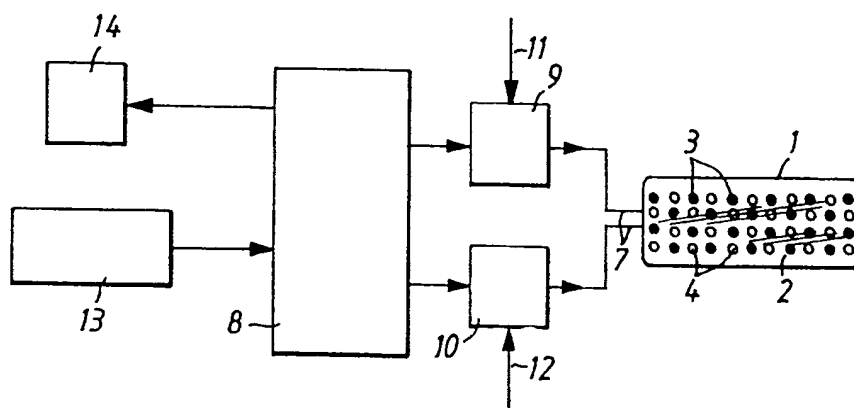
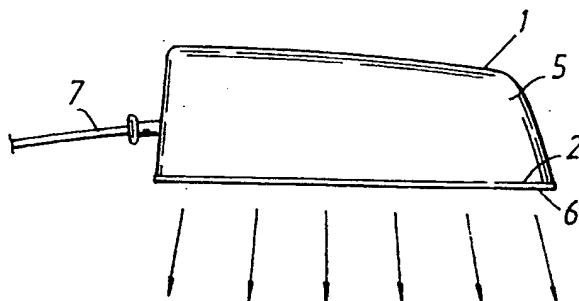


Fig. 2



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 95/00049

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
IPC6: A61N 5/06 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
IPC6: A61N		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
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WPI, CLAIMS		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US, A, 4930504 (COSTAS A. DIAMANTOPOULOS ET AL), 5 June 1990 (05.06.90), column 3, line 18 - line 50; column 11, line 46 - line 56; column 17, claim 34, abstract --	1-9
A	US, A, 5259380 (EMANUEL MENDES ET AL), 9 November 1993 (09.11.93), column 3, line 9 - line 30; column 4, line 48 - column 5, line 31, figure 1, abstract --	1-9
A	WO, A1, 9309847 (LARSEN, ERIK), 27 May 1993 (27.05.93), abstract --	1-9
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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	Uppfinnaren & konstruktionen, Volume, No 2, 1993, P-A Bengtsson, "Uppfinningen som botar sjukdomar med vanligt ljus", see whole document -- -----	1-9

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

25/02/95

International application No.

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US-A- 4930504	05/06/90	CA-A- 1329416 DE-A- 3882933 EP-A,B- 0320080 JP-A- 1136668	10/05/94 09/09/93 14/06/89 29/05/89
US-A- 5259380	09/11/93	NONE	
WO-A1- 9309847	27/05/93	AU-A- 2929492 EP-A- 0568666	15/06/93 10/11/93

